

Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 CCO-00 SY-10 EUR-06 (ISO) W

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P 101523Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBA SY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5968

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0382

FROM RCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM, US

SUBJ: INITIATION COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY DAMASCUS

1. ARRIVED DAMASCUS EVENING JANUARY 5 AFTER UNEVENTFUL
BORDER CROSSING.

2. SUNDAY MORNING RCO, ADM, RTC, RSO AND SEABEE
GAINED ENTRANCE TO CCC AREA.

3. C&R AREA WAS DEVOID ANY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OR
TOOLS OF OPERATION AND HAD BEEN USED AS STORAGE AREA.
TCU AREA FAIRLY INTACT.

4. FOLLOWING ACTION TAKEN:

A. C&R AREA LEFT AS STORAGE DEPOT AND CODE ROOM
HAD LOCK INSTALLED AND WAS SEALED OFF.

B. TCU AREA WAS CLEARED OF MISCELLANEOUS
MATERIAL, PLACED IN ORDER, CLEANED AND MADE READY
TO SERVE AS COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS UNIT. COMPOSED
OF TWO ROOMS AND SECURED BY VAULT DOOR AND INNER DUTCH
DOOR. OUTER ROOM WAS USED AS SHOP FOR MAINTENANCE AND
REPAIR AND EQUIPPED WITH TOOLS, SPARE PARTS, PARTICULARLY
RADIO ITEMS AND TWO SAFES CONTAIN VHF PORTAMOBILES: 2
MOTORALS, 3 GE, 4 JOHNSTON. ROOM ALSO CONTAINS OLD
SIGNAL CORPS RACKED RADIO TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER

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EQUIPMENT. THE SECOND, INNER ROOM, HAS TWO ASRS,

REPERF, ROLLAROUND, MODEL 19TTY, HW-28, TWO RACKS HW-26, OSCILLOSCOPE, ONE PRINTER CHASSIS, KWM-2A AND A TC-1.

C. HW-26 EQUIPMENT AND THE HW-28 HAD BEEN DISABLED BY CUTTING THE WIRING AND STRAPPING RESPECTIVELY AND ARE CONSIDERED USELESS. THE ASRS, REPERF AND ROLL-AROUND PRINTER APPEAR SERVICEABLE.

D. ROOM ALSO CONTAINS OTHER RADIO GEAR RACK MOUNTED AND MAY STILL BE SERVICEABLE.

E. ROOF ANTENNA FIELD IS INTACT, BUT YET NOT ABLE TO ASCERTAIN HOW SERVICEABLE.

F. 110 POWER AND 220 FOR A/C WAS EXAMINED AND IS INTACT AND READY FOR USE. EMERGENCY POWER IS UNAVAILABLE AS THE TWO SMALL GENERATORS IN THE BASEMENT ARE RUSTED AND UNSERVICEABLE.

G. LOFT ROOM IMMEDIATELY ABOVE AND TO SIDE OF SECOND ROOM CONTAINS VARIOUS AND SUNDRY SUPPLIES, TAPE RECORDERS, AND MISCELLANEOUS BRIC-BRAC. ENTRANCE IS GAINED BY LADDER MOUNTED ALONG WALL.

5. ON TUESDAY RCO AND ADM OFFICER HAD CORDIAL MEETING WITH THE PPT OFFICIALS AND PLACED ORDER FOR A LEASED LINE, FULL DUPLEX TO CONNECT WITH BONN AS FIRST PREFERENCE OR ALTERNATELY ROME OR BEIRUT. ALTHOUGH THE PTT ENGINEERS COULD GIVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION, THEY DID HOPE TO RUN THE LINE FROM THE CARRIER TO THE EMBASSY WITHIN THREE DAYS AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER CONNECT THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT. THE CONTACT ENGINEER PROMISED A CALL WITHIN ONE OR TWO DAYS TO GIVE MORE PRECISE INFORMATION. (SEE BEIRUT 0286). THE RCO STATED THAT THE UNINT OFFICE WOULD CONFIRM THE ORDER IN WRITING TO THE DIRGEN PTT WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE MEETING HELD AND WOULD ALSO SEND A MEMORANDUM TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH APPROPRIATE REFERENCE AND ENCLOSING THE REQUEST FORM TO BRING IN USINT TELETYPEWRITER EQUIPMENT. (THIS FORM IS FAIRLY STANDARD AND SIMPLY ASKS THE SERIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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NUMBER OF THE TTY CHASIS, MANUFACTURER, HOW IT IS TO BE USED, DIRECTION OF USE (TO WHAT POINT). THE LETTER TO THE DIREGEN PTT WAS DELIVERED JAN. 8 BUT THE LETTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE HW-28 EQUIPMENT IN BEIRUT AND THE SUPPLY OF THE SERIAL NUMBER DATA. THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED ANY PROBLEM SINCE THE PTT LETTER HAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANCE AND WILL RESULT IN ACTION TO ACTIVATE THE CIRCUIT.

6. INTERESTS SECTION SHIEF SCOTES WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS TO CLEAR THE RCO AND CEO ENTRANCE TO DAMSCUS WITH THE EQUIPMENT. AT THAT TIME MAINTENANCE WILL BE PERFORMED ON THE TTY EQUIPMENT ALREADY IN PLACE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT BOTH THE RCO AND CEO WILL BE ON SITE BEFORE THE CIRCUIT IS READY AND WILL BE ABLE HAVE ALL EQUIPMENT IN READINESS.

7. RSO SUBMITTING SECURITY SURVEY.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. TCU AREA BE ACCEPTED AS CRU (FLOOR PLAN BEING SENT SEPARATELY).

B. ALL EQUIPMENT NOT IMMEDIATELY USEFUL OR NECESSARY BE LEFT IN PLACE IN THE TCU AREA FOR ACCOUNTING, DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL IN FUTURE WHEN FREE MOVEMENT OF POUCHES BECOMES NORMAL OPERATION.

C. FUNDS BE MADE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OF MINIMUM 25 KVA EMERGENCY GENERATOR. THIS WILL ALLOW FOR ENTIRE CHANCERY INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS TO HAVE ALTERNATE POWER SINCE CITY IS SUBJECT TO REGULAR POWER FAILURES AND SOME LENGTHY OUTAGES. (IN VIEW THIS RECOMMENDATION BEING AN INITIAL REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY POWER, IT IS DEEMED MORE SATISFACTORY AND EASIER TECHNICALLY TO HAVE ONE GENERATOR RATHER THAN BY STEPS HAVE ONE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND ANOTHER FOR THE REST OF THE CHANCERY.)

D. REQUEST FOR SURVEY FOR SHIELDED ENCLOSURE BE HELD IN ABEYANCE DUE TO LACK OF NECESSARY BUILDING INFORMATION.

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TION, BLUEPRINTS, ETC. SUFFICE TO KNOW THAT CURSORY EXAMINATION SECOND FLOOR (THIRD BY U.S.) INDICATES MORE THAN ADEQUATE SPACE. (MOVEMENT OF LARGE POUCHES, CRATES AND OTHER EXTENSIVE MATERIALS SHOULD NOT BE ATTEMPTED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.)

E. PLANS FOR ON-LINE OPERATION ALSO BE HELD IN ABEYANCE TILL THERE IS ASSURANCE MOVEMENT HEAVY POUCHES WILL NOT PREJUDICE USINT OPERATION.

F. INSTALLATION OF RADIO EQUIPMENT, EITHER FOR ON-LINE OR BACKUP OPERATION, BE CONSIDERED AT LATER DATE FOR REASONS CITED PARA A AND E. (FROM RCO EXAMINATION NEIGHBORHOOD AND OTHER EMBASSIES, THERE ARE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF ANTENNAS INDICATING RADIO OPERATION)

BOTH FOR TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION WITH SOME, SUCH
AS RED CHIENSE, BEING EXTENSIVE.)

G. OTT SERIES WITH DEPARTMENT BE PROVIDED
SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF CURCUIT INITIATION. BUFFUM

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